

## On the Moxa.

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This remedial means in its infancy underwent all those vicissitudes of fortune attendant on the introduction of every new remedy into practice, which is either immediately established as a specific for certain diseases, or rejected as useless, inere according to its effects, the pre-  
+  
-possessions or prejudices of the medical world.

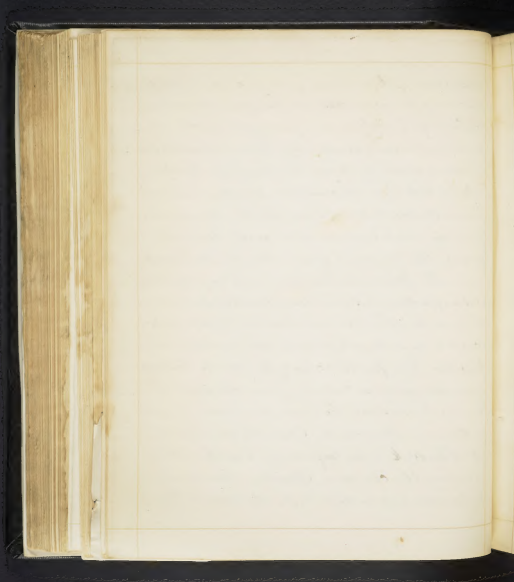
Though for a long time fluctuating & unsettled, the efficacy of the remedy is at present fully established on the broad basis of experience, and is now looked to with confidence as a palliative, at least, if not as a radical cure for some of the most intractable diseases.

The practice of cauterizing originated with the Chinese, whence it was diffused through the Oriental countries, till it reached Egypt, where it was suspected & used to a greater extent than it had previously been elsewhere. Although introduced into Europe by the physician-  
-age of Hippocrates, it soon attracted the  
2



attention of the scholars of medicine & rapidly  
 attained to great celebrity, but from the univer-  
 -sality of its application proving ineffectual  
 in many cases, it gradually fell into disuse, till  
 it was revived in more modern times, by the  
 celebrated French Surgeon Larrey. Under  
 his auspices it soon began to reassume its  
 pristine rank & is now deservedly held to be  
 among the foremost of our Medical Medicine.

The Moya as it is commonly employed con-  
 -sists of a cone or cylinder of carded cotton, an  
 -inch in length & five or six lines in thickness en-  
 -closed in a small piece of fine linen & fastened  
 together by a few stitches of the needle. In case  
 of emergency a variety of articles may be  
 made to answer the same purpose, as a piece  
 of cannon mack, the Spanish Machine &c.  
 Dr Physick, I am informed, is in the habit  
 of using the common Spunk. There is an  
 instrument intended to fix the Moya to the



part on which we are to apply it, called a  
 Pointe Morte; it consists of a Metallic string,  
 which is isolated from the skin by 3 small ivory  
 or ebony legs, which are non conductors of Caloric  
 & of a wooden handle 5 or 6 inches in length. If this  
 instrument be not at hand, it may be fixed to the  
 part by any adhesive substance as dissolved Sugar  
 Gum Arabic Mucilage &c. He should like to see  
 have a Blowpipe in order to accelerate the com-  
 bustion where we wish to make a more perma-  
 nent & powerful impression. It is stated by some  
 Authors that there are certain parts of the body on  
 which the Morte cannot be applied with safety;  
 others again discountenance any such exception,  
 considering it equally well adapted to every part.  
 Lancy in his treatise on the Morte points out the situa-  
 tions in which he thinks its application  
 attended with some risk if not with absolute dan-  
 -ger. The parts which he deems exceptionable are  
 1<sup>st</sup> All that portion of the Head which is only





caused by the Piricranium. The irritation of pro-  
duces being immediately transmitted by contiguous  
sympathy to the brain with the wings producing  
sometimes the most fatal consequences. Fe. Ann. Sc.  
-lots, two cases which fully prove the danger of ap-  
plying canter to the head.

2<sup>d</sup> On the Eye lid, nose, Larynx & Throat, on the  
Mammary, the upper part of the abdomen, on the  
Genital organs. It may be used, however, in the Peri-  
naeum, towards the commencement of the Uterus  
for the removal of Chloritis & Schenck's enlargements.

3<sup>d</sup> Over superficial tendons, over articulations  
for fear of injuring the capsular ligaments  
especially over bony projections which are  
generally so thinly covered that the bone  
might be affected & give rise to tedious  
suppurative ones.

The method of applying the  
Mona was as follows; after selecting the part  
cover it with a piece of adhesive plaster or







































Dear Mother  
I received your letter of the 10th inst.  
and was glad to hear from you.  
I am well and hope these few lines  
will find you the same.  
I have not much news to write at  
present.  
I am still in the same place.  
I hope to hear from you soon.  
I am your affectionate son,  
John Smith







[illegible]









[illegible]



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I am unable to determine. Mr. Wallace in his  
 introductory observations to his work on the  
 Moxa, states, that he conceives, that National  
 prejudice & the misapplication of the remedy  
 have had no inconsiderable share in pre-  
 venting its general use in Great Britain.

Whether the same causes operate to its exclusion  
 in this country, I know not & should they, it is  
 high time that the trammels of bigotry & pre-  
 judice were shaken off to give place to a sound  
 rational practice.

I have at length brought this essay to a conclu-  
 sion, My sole object in undertaking it, was to  
 call attention to a remedy so simple & yet so  
 apparently so well adapted to diminish the  
 number of the *Opuscula Medicorum*, which are so  
 frequently to be met with in the annals of Medicine.  
 To expect to succeed would be presumption  
 in a mere *tyro* in the Science.

Confident that the many errors to



be met with in these pages, attributable to  
the youth & inexperience of the Author  
will be regarded with a forgiving eye,  
while its merits if any it possesses will be  
duly appreciated, I respectfully submit  
this dissertation to the inspection of the  
Faculty.

